

*Charaxes brutus* Cr., *alcyone* Stoneham, f. *nigribasalis* f. nov. (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae)

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Upper surface of both wings similar to the normal.

Under surface:—Area external to the transverse discal white band normal, the white band itself appearing slightly wider than normal on the forewing due to the disappearance of the uppermost brown markings external to the last white-bordered black mark in the normal, and with faint streaks of chestnut scaling in interspaces 4, 5 and 6.

Basal markings of the forewing entirely black and white. The cell black with two short paired longitudinal white streaks, with a very faint white line transversely above and below the lower pair. The bases of interspaces 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 filled in with black with a faint whitish submarginal line, and a white speck in 2 and 3. Interspace 1 with a large black spot surrounded by white.

Basal markings of hindwing with the normal brown markings reduced to a slight patch of scaling on either side of the pre-costal vein, a faint streak parallel to the inner margin in interspace 1a and a more prominent streak in interspace 1. Otherwise the normal black markings slightly broader and the white extended to replace the normal brown.

The markings are extremely intricate and are probably best understood by studying the figure.

Three specimens, all females, of this very striking form were caught in fermented fruit traps in August 1972 at Nyali, a residential estate on the North Mainland immediately adjacent to Mombasa Island, by Commander W. A. E. Hall, R.N., at that time commanding the Kenya Navy, and his son Nigel. Two of the specimens were perfect and were preserved, one subsequently being very kindly presented to me, and which I designate as holotype. It is being presented to the British Museum (Natural History) and bears a hand written label 'Beach Rd., Nyali. August 1972'. The second specimen is retained in the Halls' collection.

The third specimen was in a very ragged condition and was, most unfortunately, released instead of being kept for eggs, which might have given some clue to the genetics of this form. Seeing that all three specimens were caught in the same small area and at approximately the same time, there can be little doubt that they were all members of the same family. Trapping has been continued in the area in the hope that the same gene combination may occur, but so far without success.